

HOUSE No. 1147

By Mr. Kennedy of Brockton, petition of Thomas P. Kennedy that vocational-technical training be included in comprehensive education and training programs. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RECOGNIZING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL LEARNING IN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to immediately provide for an appro-
3 priate recognition of vocational-technical learning in educational
4 assessment in the commonwealth, therefore it is hereby declared
5 to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation
6 of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out lines
3 85-93, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:—
4 (iii) The “certificate of occupational proficiency” shall be
5 awarded to students who successfully complete a comprehensive
6 education and training program in a particular trade or profes-
7 sional skill area and who have successfully completed an acad-
8 emic assessment tailored to the particular academic objectives of
9 vocational educational programs. The occupational component of
10 the certificate of occupational proficiency shall reflect a determi-
11 nation that the recipient has demonstrated mastery of a core of
12 skills, competencies and knowledge comparable to that possessed
13 by students of equivalent age entering the particular trade or pro-
14 fession from the most educationally advanced education systems
15 in the world. The academic component of the certificate of occu-
16 pational proficiency shall be designed to measure the specific aca-

17 demic competencies most central to the particular trade or profes-
18 sional skill area in which the student has pursued a course of
19 study, and shall take into account the additional, non-traditional
20 academic accomplishments inherent in a vocational educational
21 program.

22 The academic and educational components of the certificate of
23 occupational proficiency shall be developed by the board after
24 consultation with and an opportunity for effective input by local
25 vocational education administrators recommended by the Massa-
26 chusetts Association of Vocational Administrators. Separate stan-
27 dards shall be developed for each particular trade or professional
28 skill area. Attainment of a certificate of occupational proficiency
29 shall satisfy, as a condition for high school graduation, the
30 requirements of a competency determination under Clause (i) of
31 this section, provided that no student enrolled in a program of
32 vocational education shall be required, as a condition of gradua-
33 tion from high school, to attain either a competency determination
34 or a certificate of occupational proficiency until the fourth school
35 year following the promulgation by the board of the standards for
36 a certificate of occupational proficiency for the particular trade or
37 professional skill area in which the student has pursued or is pur-
38 suing a course of study.